

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for the

*Grayback Mountain Trail Construction  
Phase2a*

(EA# OR110-01-50)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT  
GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA

*September 2001*

Dear Reader:

We appreciate your interest in the BLM's public land management activities. We also appreciate your taking the time to review this environmental assessment (EA). If you would like to provide us with written comments regarding this project or EA, please send them to me at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504 or email them to me at *or110mb@or.blm.gov*.

If confidentiality is of concern to you, please be aware that comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review or may be held in a file available for public inspection and review. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this clearly at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Abbie Jossie  
Field Manager  
Grants Pass Resource Area

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT

EA COVER SHEET

RESOURCE AREA: Grants Pass FY & REPORT # EA Number OR-110-01-50

ACTION/TITLE: Grayback Mountain Trail Construction - Phase 2a

LOCATION: T39S, R5W, Section 21 Willamette Meridian, Josephine Co., Oregon.

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GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

*Grayback Mountain Trail Construction - Phase 2a*

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## **Chapter 1**

### **Purpose of and Need for Action**

#### **A. Introduction**

The purpose of this environmental assessment (EA) is to assist in the decision making process by assessing the environmental and human affects resulting from implementing the proposed action and/or alternatives. This EA will also assist in determining if an environmental impact statement (EIS) needs to be prepared or if a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

This EA tiers to the following documents:

- (1) the Final EIS and Record of Decision dated June 1995 for the Medford District Resource Management Plan (October 1994) (RMP);
- (2) the Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (February 1994);
- (3) the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its attachment A entitled the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 13, 1994) (NFP);
- (4) Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manager, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001); and
- (5) Grayback Mountain Trail Construction - Phase 1 Environmental Assessment (EA # OR117-00-26) (August 2000).

This EA also draws from the following documents:

- (1) Williams Watershed Analysis, BLM - Grants Pass Resource Area, 1996.
- (2) Grayback/Sucker Watershed Analysis, Siskiyou National Forest, USFS, 1995.
- (3) BLM Port-Orford Cedar Management Guidelines (September 1994).
- (4) Source Book for Natural Area Coordinators (March 1990)
- (5) USFWS Biological Opinion #1-7-96-F-392.

#### **B. Purpose and Need for the Proposal**

The broad purpose of the proposed action is to implement the Medford District's Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Grayback Mountain Trail is one of 16 potential trails identified in the RMP to be developed as funding, opportunity and workload allows. Its purpose is to provide and develop recreation opportunities.

The Grayback Trail will also be of regional and national significance. It will provide access to over 2500 miles of trail in the western US (the Pacific Crest Trail), and the Boundary Trail (two trails in the national trails system) as well as other trail systems in the Red Buttes Wilderness Area and other National Forest land, and the Oregon Caves National Monument. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail travels over 2500 miles from Mexico to Canada. The Boundary Trail follows the ridge that separates the Illinois River Valley and the Applegate Valley for 8 miles.

The present project is the construction of a portion of this trail. The overall proposal was described in the Grayback Trail Construction - Phase 1 EA in August 2000. The specific analysis conducted in that EA was for a portion of the trail which was subsequently constructed in the fall of 2000.

Division of the overall project and project assessment into phases was necessitated by the timing of the completion of S&M species surveys along different segments of the trail. The present Phase 2a is for an extension of the trail segment built in 2000.

### **C. Project Location**

The general location of the proposed project is shown on Map 1 (Appendix A). The full project area is located in T39S, R5W, Sections 20, 21, 28, 29 and 32 where the proposed trail is located on BLM, Forest Service and private lands. The present Phase 2a of the project addressed in this EA is located on BLM-administered land in section 21. The trail continues from an existing trail and heads southwest to the section line. The project is located in the Williams fifth field watershed.

### **D. Issues and Concerns Relevant to the Project**

A variety of issues and concerns were identified during the initial 2000 scoping of the Grayback Trail construction project. Issues were raised by the project planning team, the resource area's interdisciplinary (ID) team and have been drawn from some of the documents noted above.

No new or additional issues were raised in comments received regarding the Phase 1 EA or subsequent to it. Thus the issues identified as pertinent to Phase 1 are the same for the current Phase 2a. The issues used in the design of the proposed Phase 2 are thus as follows:

1. There is a potential for introduction of non-native vegetative species with increased uses.
2. Increased recreational use may increase fire risk.
3. A portion of the trail may pass through the Grayback Glades RNA.
4. Soils in the lower portion of the trail (section 21) are potentially erosive and there are landslides in the area.
5. Potential for the introduction of *Phytophthora lateralis*.
6. There is habitat for the Northern Spotted owl, a federally listed species, in the project area.

### **E. Land Use Allocation and Objectives**

On federal land, the proposed trail location is in three NFP/RMP land allocations: Adaptive Management Area (AMA), late-successional reserve (LSR), and Riparian reserve. The broad management objectives for each of these allocations are spelled out in the NFP and the RMP.

AMA objectives are to “develop and test new management approaches to integrate and achieve ecological and economic health and other social objectives.” (USDI BLM, 1995)

Late-Successional Reserve (LSR): (BLM, FS) The broad objective includes protecting and enhancing conditions of late-successional and old growth forest ecosystems. Existing developments are to be retained and maintained as long as they are consistent with the objectives. (USDI BLM, 1995) One alternative allows for a portion of the proposed trail to pass through the Grayback Glades Research Natural Area (RNA), an administratively withdrawn area within the LSR. Objectives of RNAs include preservation of important features for scientific study, research and education.

Riparian Reserves: Objectives relating to recreation include “designing new facilities within riparian reserves, including trails and dispersed sites, so as not to prevent meeting Aquatic Conservation Strategy and riparian reserve objectives.” (USDI BLM, 1995)



## **Chapter 2**

### **Proposed Action and Alternatives**

#### **A. Introduction**

The proposed action and alternatives that are addressed and analyzed in this EA are described in this chapter.

#### **B. Alternative 1: No Action Alternative**

In this EA the "no-action" alternative is defined as not implementing any aspect of the proposed action alternative(s). Defined this way, the no action alternative also serves as a baseline or reference point for evaluating the environmental effects of the action alternatives. Inclusion of this alternative is done without regard to whether or not it is consistent with the Medford District RMP.

The no action alternative is not a "static" alternative. Implicit in it is a continuation of the environmental conditions and trends that currently exist or are occurring within the project area. This would include trends such as vegetation succession and consequent wildlife habitat changes, rates of erosion, trends in fire hazard changes, OHV use, *etc.*

#### **C. Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

##### **1. Introduction/Objective**

The overall objective is to build a trail system to provide a recreation opportunity. The purpose of the trail is to provide access to a high elevation (6,000 feet) recreational area and to join the Forest Service National Boundary Trail managed by the Siskiyou and Rogue River National Forests. The Boundary Trail provides access to the Oregon Caves, the Red Buttes Wilderness, the Pacific Crest Trail, Bigelow Lake, Bolen Lake and Tannen Lake. The proposed Grayback Mountain Trail would provide access to these areas from the Williams area.

As noted in the August 2000 Grayback Trail Construction EA, the overall proposed action is divided into three phases of trail construction between Rock Creek Road to the Forest Service Boundary Trail. The total trail length (all phases) would be approximately 6 miles. Three quarters of a mile of the trail was built in 1990 and one mile in 2000.

The present EA addresses Phase 2a of the construction. Phases 2b and 3 are presented in this EA for purposes of overall project perspective, but will be more specifically evaluated under separate EAs upon completion of special status species surveys and resolution of easement needs.

##### **2. Phase 2a**

Phase 2a of the trail construction will be in section 21 (see map 2). Approximately ½ mile of trail will be constructed to connect with the existing trail in section 21 built in 1990. Phase 2a will extend the trail to the section line to the west. Trail work will include brushing and building a trail tread.

The trail tread will be constructed to a total width of 3 feet. It will be out-sloped, rolled and dipped for proper drainage. The trail tread will be constructed on a full bench prism with no fill slopes. All debris will be scattered below the trail to blend with the natural landscape. The trail will be cleared to a width of 4 feet horizontally each side of centerline and 10 feet vertically from centerline. On long grades, passing lanes may be constructed to provide safety in passing for horses. The trail will be built with hand tools or mechanized equipment (i.e., chainsaws, trail building machines). Any mechanized equipment used will be washed prior to bringing it to the project site and following use to reduce the chance of spreading *Phytophthora*. If a trail building machine is used, it will be limited to the dry season (June 15 - September 15). Trail construction will be seasonally restricted within 1/4 mile of existing owl sites or unsurveyed habitat from March 1 to June 30.

As noted in the August 2000 EA, trail head parking for approximately 5 vehicles will be at the existing pull-out on Rock Creek Road. The road to the trail head will be bladed, rocked, and brushed as needed. The road will also be evaluated for improving drainage from the existing gate to the trail head. A new gate will be installed above the trail head and below the junction with road 39-5-21 and will be closed year-round. The existing gate (approximately 1/2 mile south) along road 39-5-14 will be open during the dry season (typically June 1 to September 15).

Permissible trail uses for the Grayback trail are: hiking, day use. Campfires, equestrian use and camping will be allowed only if the trail is located outside the RNA boundaries (see alternative 2b below). Uses that will not be permitted on the trail are: motorized vehicles and mountain bicycles.

### 3. Phase 2b

Phase 2b will include construction of the trail from the southwest boundary of section 21 to the BLM and FS boundary in section 32. This work will include brushing, trail tread construction per the specifications of Phase 1. It will require easement acquisition in sections 20 and 32. Phase 2b would begin in 2003, or as funding is secured. Phase 2b will also include providing additional parking, as needed, along the Rock Creek Road utilizing existing turnouts.

#### a. Alternative 2a (Phase 2b)

This alternative routes the trail through the Grayback Glades RNA. Approximately one mile of trail would be within the RNA. This would avoid private land and easement acquisition in section 32, but would be steeper and require switchbacks. This alternative would permit hiking and day use only. Equestrian use would not be permitted due to its routing through the RNA.

#### b. Alternative 2b (Phase 2b)

This alternative routes the trail outside the RNA but crosses private land in section 32. This would keep the trail on the ridgeline. It would require obtaining a 1/4 mile easement for the trail across private land instead of keeping the trail on public land. In this alternative, permitted uses include hiking, horseback riding, day use and overnight uses.

#### 4. Phase 3

Phase 3 will include connecting the Grayback Mountain Trail to the Boundary Trail on U.S. Forest Service land, from the USFS/BLM property line in section 32. This phase will also include obliterating and rehabilitating the existing trail (Old Rock Creek Trail through the RNA) including the removal of any old campsites. Only native plant species would be used in the rehabilitation if seeding is necessary. Water bars will be placed on steep pitches along the trail.

#### **D. Project design features**

Project design features (PDFs) are included in the proposed action for the purpose of reducing anticipated adverse environmental impacts which might stem from the implementation of the proposal. The PDFs noted below would be a part of all of the alternatives, unless otherwise noted.

##### 1. Botanical Resource Protection

If localized erosion control is necessary, native plant species or sterile wheat grass will be used. Reestablishment of native vegetation will be allowed to occur naturally on other disturbed areas. The trail will be routed to avoid any populations of federal candidate, Bureau Sensitive or survey and manage plant species.

##### 2. Cultural Resource Protection

If cultural sites are found along the proposed trail route, mitigation measures such as rerouting the trail, will be implemented to protect the sites.

##### 3. Wildlife Resource Protection

If survey and manage species are located along the proposed trail route, the trail will be rerouted to avoid these areas. Talus areas judged suitable for Del Norte salamanders will be avoided by trail re-routing.

To preclude potential disturbance of spotted owls during trail construction, no construction work will be permitted within 1/4 mile of existing spotted owl sites or unsurveyed spotted owl habitat between March 1 to June 30 period.

## **Chapter 3**

### **Environmental Consequences**

#### **A. Introduction**

Only substantive site specific environmental changes that would result from implementing the proposed action or alternatives are discussed in this chapter. If an ecological component is not discussed, it should be assumed that the resource specialists have considered affects to that component and found the proposed action or alternatives would have minimal or no affects. Similarly, unless addressed specifically, the following were found not to be affected by the proposed action or alternatives: air quality; cultural or historical resources; Native American religious concerns; prime or unique farmlands; flood plains; endangered, threatened or sensitive plant, animal or fish species; water quality (drinking/ground); wetlands/riparian zones; wild and scenic rivers. In addition, hazardous waste or materials are not directly involved in the proposed action or alternatives.

General or "typical" affects from projects similar in nature to the proposed action or alternatives are also described in the EISs and plans to which this EA is tiered.

#### **B. Site Specific Beneficial or Adverse Effects of the Alternatives**

##### **1. Resource: Soils and Water**

###### **a. Affected Environment**

The trail is on and adjacent to ridges that separate the East Fork of Williams Creek 6<sup>th</sup> Field Watershed (6FW) and the West Fork of Williams Creek 6FW. The construction of the trail would start from an elevation of 3,500 feet and extend up to an elevation of roughly 4,040. Soil on the trail location is mapped in the Soil Survey of Josephine County as Tethrick gravelly fine sandy loam surface over fine sandy loam subsoil. Tethrick soil is well drained. Effective soil depth is greater than 40 inches. This soil developed in colluvium derived dominantly from granitic rock. Tethrick soil is highly erosive due to low levels of cohesiveness.

###### **b. Environmental Effects**

###### **1) Alternative 1: No Action**

Conditions that affect hydrologic status should remain essentially the same as they are currently. This applies for both short (0 to 5 years) and long (5 to 20 years) terms. It is unlikely that human use would increase in the short term. Long term human use is difficult to project but would be expected to either remain at the current level or increase slightly.

###### **2) Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

The trail would be designed in such a way that natural drainage patterns will be maintained by rolling and out-sloping with 3 foot total width and dipped for drainage. The trail itself should cause

minimum, if any, changes of localized runoff and erosion. The trail should have minimal, if any, effect of increased sediment to the stream network in either of the 6<sup>th</sup> field WS's.

The reconstructed trail would encourage increased hiking use of the area. The reconstruction will create a narrow strip where varying levels of vegetation clearing will occur. Increased use and trail maintenance will slightly diminish vegetated area and thus plant productivity. For the entire trail this would amount to approximately 2.2 acres. For the second phase this would amount to about 0.6 acres.

Alternative 2b would allow the trail to be used for horse riding. Horse hooves put greater bearing pressure on the trail surface than hikers do. This could lower the trail surface and create a low track on the trail that would carry runoff water off the trail. This may create an erosive situation if drainage problems were to develop over time. However it is anticipated that minimal, if any, sediment would reach the stream network.

There would be no anticipated additional cumulative effects to the watershed in terms of stream water quality and quantity changes.

## **2. Resource: Vegetation / Port-Orford Cedar**

### **a. Affected Environment**

The proposed trail will go through three different Operations Inventory (OI) units. There are no records of past management in any of these acres. The plant community on the northerly (cooler) aspects is the Douglas-fir-Golden Chinquapin/Dwarf Oregon grape association (Atzet and others 1996). The overstory is dominated by Douglas-fir and sugar pine. Understory trees include white fir, incense cedar, tanoak, California black oak and canyon live oak. Some healthy Port-Orford cedar grow in the project area but no Port-Orford cedar root disease pockets are known along this portion of the trail.

The southerly (warmer) aspects have a slightly different plant community with areas that have elements of the Douglas-fir-Canyon Live Oak/Poison Oak and Douglas-fir-Ponderosa Pine/Poison Oak associations (Atzet and others 1996). These communities lack the canopy closure and higher level of tree stocking seen on the cooler aspects.

### **b. Environmental consequences**

#### **1) Alternative 1: No Action**

Potential for *Phytophthora lateralis* to infest the area would remain at current low level. Potential exists for pathogen importation via wildlife and dispersed recreationists.

#### **2) Alternative 2: Proposed Action Alternatives**

The proposed action would have no impacts unless it were to be a contributor to the introduction of *Phytophthora lateralis* into the area.

Increased recreation use could increase the potential for *Phytophthora lateralis* introduction. Allowing only hiking would have the least chance of importation of root disease into the project area simply due to a lower potential for the importation of infested soil less (hiking only vs. hiking and horseback riding). During wet weather, the important carriers are elk, cattle, and machines. Based on the findings of Zobel, hiking boots could pose a hazard, however, the risk is low. (Zobel et al 1985)

### 3. Resource: Botany (special status species)

#### a. Affected Environment

The vegetation along this section of the trail is predominantly Douglas-fir and sugar pine with golden chinquapin, canyon live oak, tanoak and madrone. Dwarf Oregon grape is common in the Understory. True fir forest is found at higher elevations. The Phase 2a portion of the Grayback trail was surveyed for Survey and Manage/Special Status vascular plants, lichens and bryophytes in June 2001.

One population of *Cypripedium fasciculatum* was found directly along the trail. This Bureau Sensitive species is also a Survey and Manage 1C species. The population was originally recorded in 1992. At that time, it consisted of four plants that were stressed due to high canopy openings from previous trail brushing. Currently the population consists of only one plant. Habitat for this species does exist throughout the length of the trail.

*Cypripedium fasciculatum* habitat occurs primarily on moist, northerly aspects (anywhere from west to north to east slopes) in older forests with 60% to 100% canopy closure. This orchid species is very long-lived, perhaps as long as 95 years (Management Recommendations 1998), can take up to 15 years to emerge above ground and requires specific mycorrhiza\* for germination and establishment. This species can emerge sporadically, remaining dormant some years.

The Management Recommendations for Vascular Plants (1998) state that for *Cypripedium fasciculatum*: 1) habitat conditions be maintained or restored in population areas, 2) canopy closure be maintained at 60% or greater, 3) down logs, snags and duff layer be maintained for soil moisture and mycorrhizal associates, 4) activities that alter soil, duff, downed wood and mycorrhiza be avoided, 5) known sites be secured from prescribed fire, except in research areas, 6) population areas be large enough to maintain microclimate, 7) biological/ecological requirements at each life stage be managed and 8) environmental change be managed in such a way as to ensure evolutionary potential.

#### b. Environmental Consequences

##### 1) Alternative 1: No Action

If the trail is not re-constructed, no effects would occur to botanical resources along its route. The *Cypripedium fasciculatum* population may recover in numbers as the canopy grows back over the old trail.

##### 2) Alternative 2: Proposed Action

Routing the trail location in accordance with the project design feature to avoid the *Cypripedium fasciculatum* population so as to maximize canopy closure and maintain undisturbed mycorrhizal connections should result in no detrimental effects. Off trail trampling could take place from hikers and would reduce the probability that this species could exist adjacent to the trail.

In general, trampled areas along the trail would also allow for introduction of non-natives and noxious weeds. Allowing horse use on this trail will create even more disturbance in the form of erosion, introduction of non-native or noxious species and larger areas of trampling off trail, reducing the potential habitat for *Cypripedium fasciculatum* even further.

Trail building is minimal in this portion of the Siskiyou mountains. Cumulative effects that might result from the Grayback trail should be negligible.

#### **4. Resource: Wildlife (special status, S&M species and their habitats)**

##### **a. Affected Environment**

The proposed phase 2A of the Grayback mountain trail is within the Williams fifth field watershed and tributary to the Applegate river. The land allocation on the BLM portion of the trail is LSR. A portion of the trail was built in 1989 but an established trail head was never complete, therefore the trail has received little use. This portion of the trail was built prior to the listing of the Northern spotted owl location (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) as a "Threatened" species. A portion of this trail passes near a nesting location.

The impacts discussion below is based on the alteration of potential habitat for different wildlife species and will assume that the habitat is occupied. The actual real effects will be equal to or less than what is being analyzed.

There are several habitats in the project area including low elevation late-successional forest, high elevation true fir, meadows and alder glades. These lands provide habitat for a number of sensitive species including the Northern Spotted owl, Red tree vole (*Phenacomys longicaudus*), Del Norte salamander (*Plethodon elongatus*), Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*), and other raptors as well as all five Buffer species of bats identified in NFP-ROD.

##### **b) Environmental Consequences**

###### **1) Alternative 1: No Action**

The existing portion of trail would remain unlinked from any trail head and would not access any other trails. Existing trends in vegetation would continue. Species that occur within the proposed action area would remain undisturbed. Current trends in populations would remain the same. The area would continue to have little visitation from humans and would remain relatively remote.

No species listed under the Endangered Species Act will be affected by the No Action Alternative.

###### **2) Alternative 2: Action Alternative**

The trail is not anticipated to change the overall ecological conditions of surrounding habitats. The primary affect of the trail will be the increase in human activity in areas that currently receive little visitation. The degree of disturbance will depend on frequency and magnitude of visitation. It is anticipated that the trail will receive “light” weekend use. Overnight use is allowed but due to the limited amount of flat terrain it is not expected to be high. It is anticipated that the majority of users will be using the trail system to access higher elevation terrain and extended periods of camping are not expected. Therefore the majority of disturbance will be within the general vicinity of the trail. It is not anticipated that the amount of disturbance will have an overall affect on population of any animals in the local area.

Del Norte salamanders (a Bureau tracking species) would not be disturbed as the trail will be rerouted to avoid occupied talus sites.

The Rock Creek Northern spotted owl nesting site is adjacent to the existing trail. Increase use of the trail may cause the birds to be displaced from their current nesting location. In order to better assess the impact of increased trail traffic on the spotted owl nesting, monitoring of the nest is proposed (See Appendix B).

The trail will also pass through unsurveyed suitable habitat for the Northern spotted owl. Increased activity associated with trail construction including noise from chainsaws or trail building machines could negatively affect the species if the habitat is being used. The seasonal operating restriction for construction will serve to reduce any adverse impacts of this.

## **5. Resource: Recreation/Cultural**

### **a. Affected Environment**

The proposed trail is in section 21 and will extend an existing trail to eventually connect with the Boundary Trail. The total trail route begins at approximately 3,000 feet elevation and climbs to over 6,000 feet elevation in 6 miles.

There are no known cultural sites along the proposed route.

### **b. Environmental consequences**

#### **1) Alternative 1: No Action**

In the no action alternative, recreational use would continue to be light, with no trail development. User impacts would be dispersed throughout the area. The existing section of trail, which was constructed in 1990, 1999 and 2000 by volunteers, would be shorter and more difficult to access due to its location behind a locked gate and its limited access.

#### **2) Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

Phase 2a will complement and extend the sections of the trail built in 1990 and 2000. In Phase 2a, additional hiking (and potentially equestrian) opportunities would be provided from the Williams



area. The existing trail provides access to late-successional forest. In Phases 2b and 3, the trail would continue to connect with the Boundary Trail, and eventually to the Pacific Crest trail, providing access to thousands of miles of trail. This recreation opportunity would provide access into some of the most unique high elevation habitat in the area, with the opportunity for interpretation of the unique features of the area.

Construction of a trail would limit site impacts to a single trail, rather than multiple trails throughout the area to access the existing section of trail. According to Hammitt and Cole (1987), trail construction is a good example of use concentration that serves to avoid the creation of numerous user-created trails criss-crossing the landscape. This concentration of use will also limit safety hazards by providing a designated trail, rather than allowing for multiple trails to be built and brushed in steep terrain, where hikers could get lost or injured.

The proposed trail construction is in a VRM Class III area. The project will meet VRM III objectives: “partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer.” (BLM Manual H8410-1, 1986.)

## **Chapter 4**

### **Agencies and Persons Consulted**

#### **A. Agencies and Persons Consulted**

The staffs of several agencies and groups were consulted prior to preparation of this proposal:

US Forest Service, Siskiyou National Forest, Illinois Valley Ranger District  
Illinois Valley Community Response Team  
US Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest, Applegate Ranger District  
Williams Watershed Council  
Applegate River Watershed Council

A public comment period was also held in August 2000 for the review of the Grayback Trail Phase 1 Construction project EA which outlined the full Grayback Trail project. One letter was received in response to this; it voiced support. Previous trail sections were constructed by volunteers from local communities and represented opportunities for additional comments and views to be presented.

#### **B. Availability of Document and Comment Procedures**

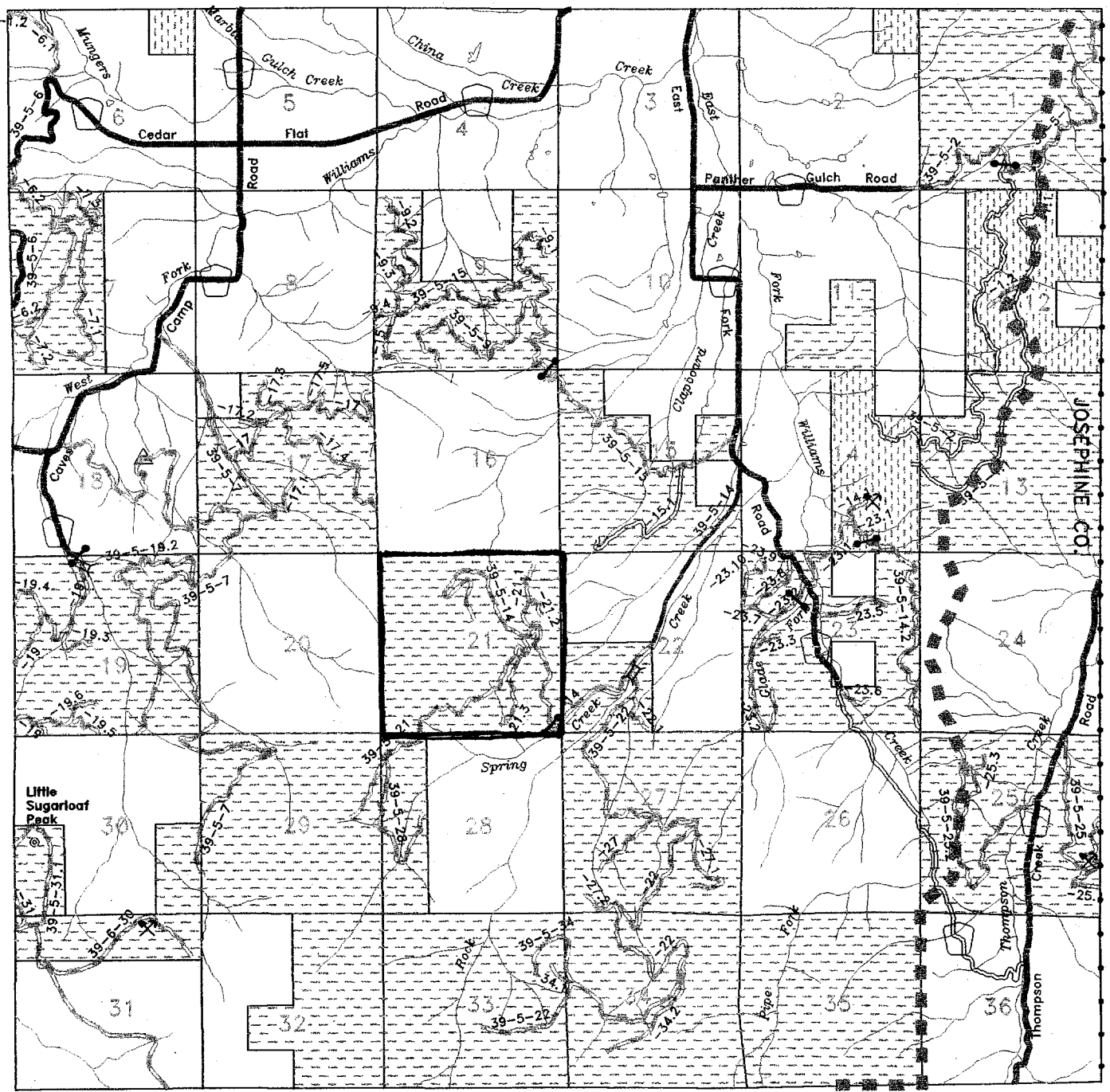
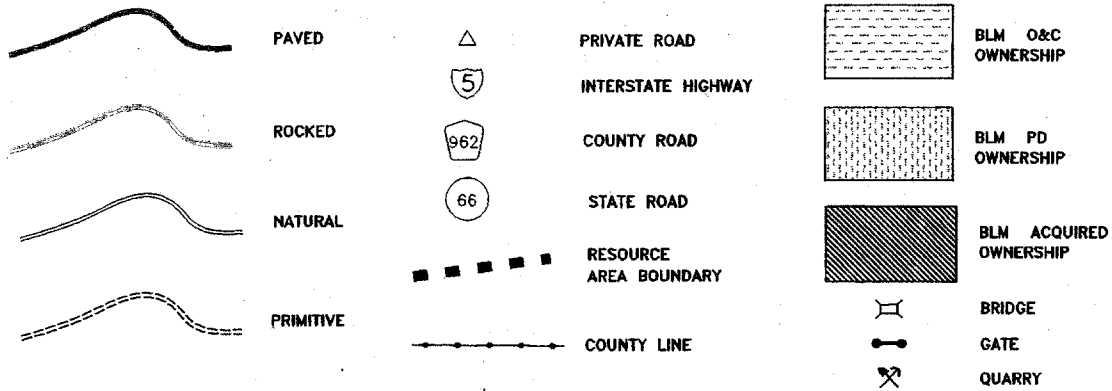
Copies of the EA document will be available for formal public review in the BLM Medford District Office. A formal 15 day public comment period will be held following an announcement in the Grants Pass Courier.

## **Appendix A Project Maps**

# Map 1 Project Location

TOWNSHIP 39 S

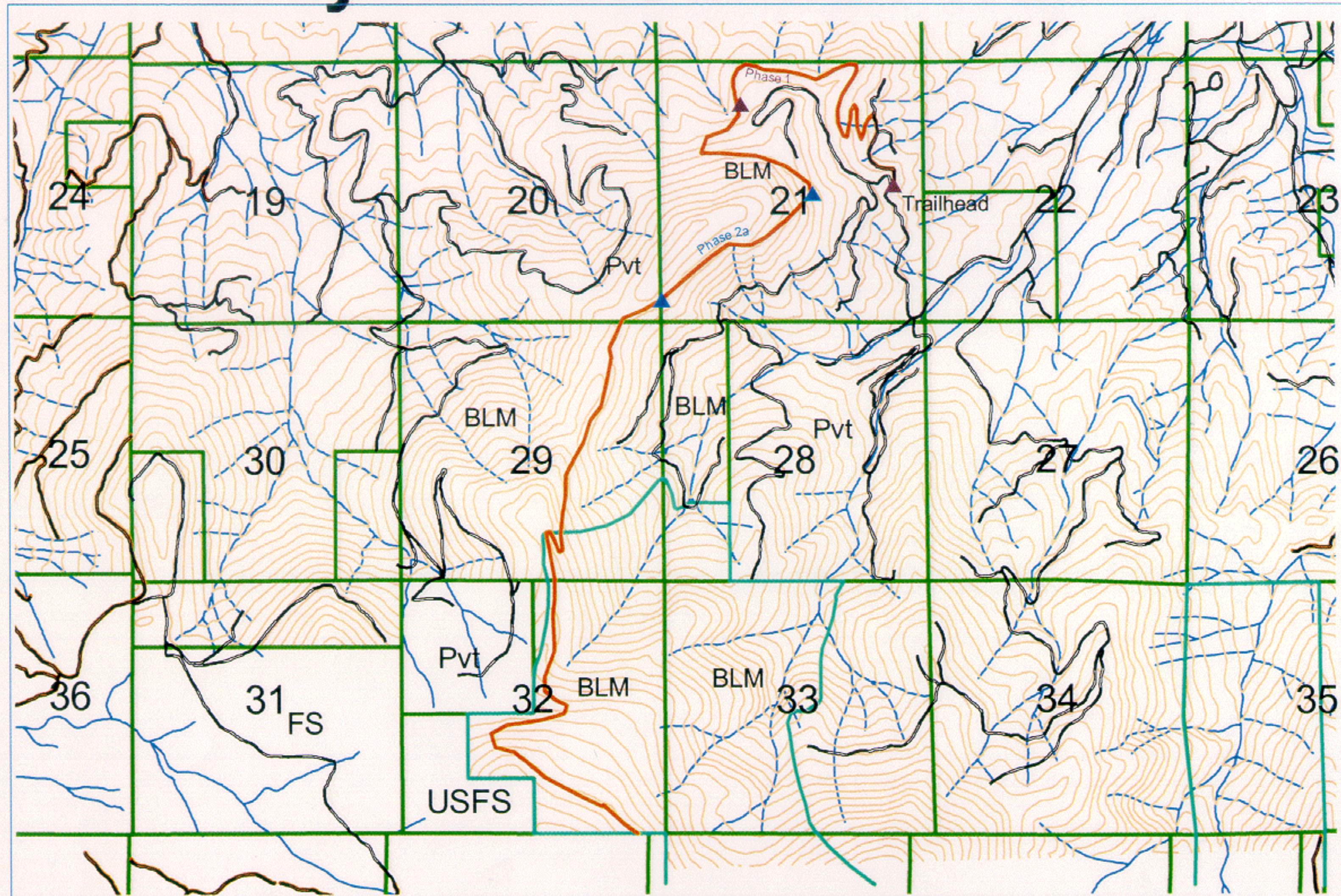
RANGE 5 W





# Map 2

## Grayback Mountain Trail



- Roads
- Grayback trail
- Grayback Glades RNA
- Section lines
- Contour lines (100 ft)
- Streams



0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles



## Appendix B: Potential Monitoring

- 1) *Port-Orford cedar monitoring*: Annually monitor the trail to determine if Port-Orford Cedar root disease is present. Monitor after the onset of moisture stress (after July 15<sup>th</sup>).
- 2) In order to assess the level of actual disturbance of the trail's use on the spotted owl nesting, the known spotted owl nest area would be monitored for a minimum of two years following completion of Phase 2a.

## Appendix C

### References Cited

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